

Date: August 2, 1996

BQA-96-040

To: Hospitals
Nursing Homes
Facilities for the Developmental Disabled
Community Based Residential Facilities
Rural Health Clinics
Adult Family Homes
Adult Day Care

HOSP 20
NH 30
FDD 20
CBRF 1
RHC 7
AFH 1
ADC 1

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Recall of Electric Baseboard Heaters

Attached is a copy of an article contained in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Journal, July/August 1996 edition. The article deals with a recall of electric baseboard heaters. We ask that you share this information with your staff, taking whatever action is appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Stephen D. Schlough, P.E., Chief, Health Services Section at (608) 266-3878.

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[Excerpt]

Electric baseboard heaters recalled

Square D Company and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a recall of nearly one million electric baseboard heaters due to potential fire and shock hazards. All heaters involved should be replaced.

The heaters were sold nationwide between 1970 and 1986. The CPSC has reports possibly linking the heaters to 3 deaths, 5 injuries, and 90 incidents of property damage.

According to the CPSC, an installation wire running along the inside of the heater may deteriorate over time, causing sparks, which may lead to fire.

This voluntary recall affects 920,000 baseboard heaters with the Square D or Nelco Corporation brand names. Model numbers begin with 18, 25, or 30, followed by four numbers, and ending with the letters SER A or SER B.

Square D no longer sells the models but has made an agreement with another baseboard heater manufacturer who will sell affected customers new heaters of equal size for 50 percent off the retail price.

To get the discount, remove the Square D or Nelco identification label from the unit and present it at the time of purchase. For more information, call (800) 666-7557.